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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rabbi Michael Beals, rabbi at Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington, DE.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us join together in prayer.

Adon Olam, Master of the Universe, we send our first prayer to the residents of Moore, OK. May it be Your will that those who are missing be found alive and be cared for. Send comfort to those who have suffered loss, and with the help of those gathered here, send the resources required to rebuild.

Eternal our God, You commanded us to care for the widow, the orphan, and You commanded us to care for—so appropriate today—the stranger in our midst. Thank You for giving our Nation these esteemed Senators to help us as a nation fulfill the command to care for the most vulnerable in our midst. Into each of these honorable Senators You implanted Your divine spark. Help these Senators, Your humble servants, find a way of working together for the common good. In doing so, may they thus take their individual holy inner lights and join them together, creating one unified shaft of light so strong that it will shine clear up to the firmament above.

We pray this in Your sacred and Holy Name. And let us all say amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am going to have a few things to say, as will Senator MCCONNELL, but now I will yield to my friend from Delaware, the junior Senator from Delaware.

I ask unanimous consent that when Senator MCCONNELL and I finish our remarks, he be recognized to speak for 7 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to recognize and celebrate this morning's Chaplain. Rabbi Michael Beals has served our community in Wilmington, DE, and

our country admirably and with a strength of faith and foundation that you have heard in this morning's prayer. He is joined by his wife Elissa, a caring veterinarian, his daughter Ariella, whose bat mitzvah was just celebrated, and his daughter Shira and many other family and friends. He has a wonderful and accomplished education, being ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary and also having studied at the American University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

In addition to his remarkable education, he is someone who is profoundly grounded in the calling, in the challenge of rebuilding. As you heard in his reflections in prayer this morning, he is someone who cares deeply for the widow, the orphan, the stranger, and is true to the Biblical calling of us to be witnesses to our communities wherever we might be found.

I am grateful for the chance to add his voice to the many who have brought this Senate into session year in and year out over the centuries, and I am grateful for his friendship and leadership in my hometown of Wilmington, DE.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. With the Republican leader's consent, I ask now that the senior Senator from Delaware be allowed to say a few words regarding our guest Chaplain.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, Senator COONS and I spent a couple of lovely hours together in Michael Beals' synagogue last Saturday as his daughter was going through bat mitzvah. I will never forget that occasion. What a joy for everyone there, people from all over the country. I know it was a source of family pride for the father, the mom, and for the rabbi to be there with their daughter on that special day.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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